Kashmir & UT of Chandigarh at Chandigarh;

(iv) Maharashtra, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat at Mumbai.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) This Ministry is not aware of the setting up of such Committees by State Governments or the Union Territories. However, some states have created staff positions on export promotion.

(e) and (f) Ministry of Commerce had written to State Governments not to levy some local taxes on inputs used for export production/100% Export Oriented Units. The issue was also emphasised by the then Commerce Minister during the meetings mentioned in reply to part (a). Since the Ministry of Commerce does not maintain State-wise data of exports, the effect of various levies on export promotion from individual states cannot be ascertained.

Decline in Production and Export Cardamom

6661. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production and export of cardamom has declined during each of the last three years in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of its percentage as compared to the above period; and

(c) the steps taken by the Goverment to boost the production and the export of cardamom ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) The production and export of cardamom (Small) have shown a mixed trend during the last 3 years as may be seen from the details given below :-

Year	% (Tonnes)	Production Increase/Decrease over last year	% Qty. (Tonnes)	Increase/ Decrease over last year	% Value (Rs. Crs.)	Export Increase/Decrease over last year
1994-95	7000	6.06	257	-33.59	7.63	-47.56
1995-96	7900	12.86	500	94.55	12.40	62.52
1996-97 (E)	6750	-14.56	240	-52.00	9.21	-25.73

(E) Estimate

Source : Production – Estimate by the Spices Board

Export – DGCI&S Calcutta/Shipping Bills/ Exporters Returns

The decline in production during 1996-97 occurred mainly due to adverse climatic conditions. The fluctuations in exports have been mainly due to stiff price competition offered by Guatemala in the overseas markets.

(c) Some of the steps taken by the Government to increase production and export of Cardamom include :-

(i) Production and supply of quality planting material.

(ii) Assistance for replantation of old diseased plants.

(iii) Subsidy for irrigation and land development; and

(iv) Assistance for purchase of plant protection equipment.

(v) Exemption of cess on export of cardamom.

(vi) Reimbusement of air freight charges at the rate of Rs. 20 per kg. for export of small cardamom in consumer packs by air to middle-east destinations.

(vii) Sponsoring trade delegations and participation in trade fairs.

Disinvestment Commission

6662. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the credit rating agencies engaged by the disinvestment commission to study the future profitability, technology levels, share value and other relevant details of the 40 Public Sector Undertakings referred to it by the Core Group of Secretaries for possible disinvestment by the Government has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action propose to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) 30 companies out of the 50 PSUs, referred to the Commission have been entrusted to the credit rating agencies, of which reports have been received in respect of 21 companies. The reports by the agencies from one of the inputs, based on which the Commission makes its recommendations to the Government.

[Translation]

Supply of Cotton

6663. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether inadequate supply of cotton is being made to Handloom Development Centres;

(b) if so, the policy formulated by the Government to deal with this problem; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to supply sufficient cotton to Handloom Development Centres ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) Problem faced by the Handloom Industry is not inadequate supply of yarn but rise in its prices. With a view to protect the handloom industry from the impact of rising prices, the Government of India has been implementing Mill Gate Price Scheme. Under this Scheme, State Handloom Development Corporations, State Apex/ Regional Handloom Cooperative Societies, Handloom Development Centres, Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies, registered societies (NGOs) and any other organisation recommended by the State Governments are eligible for procurement of yarn through the National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) at the Mill Gate Price. Adequate supply of cotton yarn is made available to Handloom Development Centres through the implementation of various policies and schemes of Government of India. NHDC has been supplying yarn to Handloom Development Centres Under Mill Gate Price Scheme in addition to their normal business operation and during the last three years 58.715 lacs kg. of yarn has been supplied by the NHDC to 755 Handloom Development Centres.

[English]

Two Stroke Engines

6664. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Eco-friendly two-strokes mobikes" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 22nd March 1997;

(b) if so, the facts reported therein;

(c) whether the Government propose to give incentives and financial assistance to complete such work successfully; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The news-item refers to the claim made by some students of Malaviya Regional Engineering College, Rajasthan regarding development of eco-friendly fuel efficient 2-stroke engines for motorbikes. No Proposal for any assistance has been received by the Ministry of Industry in this case.

Share of Multinational Companies in Exports

6665. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total share of multinational companies in the total export during each of the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase the export by both the multinational and indigenous companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) No exporter-wise data is maintained by the Government. Hence separate information on share of exports of multinational companies is not available.

(b) The new Export and Import Policy, 1997-2002, which has been introduced with effect from 1st April, 1997, seeks to further liberalise, deregulate and simplify the EXIM Policy and Procedures with the objective of boosting exports.

Trade with Canada

6666. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :